



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

PHOTO RELEASE

2320 S. DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: February 17, 2010

Contact: Michael Valenti
302.698.4550 (office)

Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Creates Delaware Jobs While Improving the Environment



Photo #1: Before a succession of major blizzards blanketed the Delaware landscape under several feet of snow, Michael Williams of Smyrna was clearing trees and underbrush in New Castle County's Blackbird State Forest. Williams and his son Shawn are part of a four-member crew working on a year-long series of projects on state forestland with funding from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

With funding from the ARRA, the Delaware Forest Service has partnered with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to create 14 positions to improve the health of ecosystems in state forests and parks, as well as reducing the dangers of hazardous fuels such as phragmites in coastal communities.



Photo #2: (from left to right) Michael Williams of Smyrna, and April Moore and Kristen Mauser, both of Newark, are part of a four-member crew helping the Delaware Forest Service to conduct a year-long series of timber stand improvement projects on state forestland. Williams' son Shawn Williams, also of Smyrna, is not pictured.

Two four-member crews are working for DNREC to conduct a series of hazardous fuel reduction projects throughout the state. Another ARRA-funded position was created to write fire management plans for State Parks; and another position was created to conduct hazardous fuel reduction projects in three coastal communities.

-more-

**Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Creates Delaware Jobs While Improving the Environment**

page 2



Photo #3: The danger of hazardous fuels such as phragmites can be seen here in this photo taken near Delaware's Pickering Beach community.

As part of an ARRA-funded fire hazard mitigation project, two four-member crews will work under the supervision of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to conduct an ongoing cycle of grass mowing and herbicide applications to offset the potential risk of wildfire in coastal communities.

###